



The time has come to pass a parity law in Michigan
43 states and Congress have enacted mental health parity laws

Michiganders deserve no less

Why we need a law

- To ensure that mental health and substance use disorder benefits are **affordable**, a law is needed to create a pool of beneficiaries and to **spread the risk**.
- To make an affirmative effort to **eliminate discrimination** in health insurance coverage.
- Many families believe they have good insurance until a family member is diagnosed with a mental illness. ***Families pay in for their coverage equally, but they don't get equal coverage.***

Why Michigan needs a parity law now

- To cover the more than **2 million people** in Michigan who are **excluded** by the federal parity law exemption of businesses with 50 or fewer employees.
- **Small businesses** tell us that they have shopped for, but cannot purchase a parity product for their employees. The smaller employer cannot do it by himself or herself. Everyone has to step off the curb at the same time...that is *sharing the risk*
- To recognize that mental health and substance use treatments are ***an integral part of healthcare***.
- 43 states have passed parity laws—20 of those states passed additional legislation to enhance and expand their law. **No state has repealed a parity law.**

Michigan parity legislation is pro-business

- More days of **work loss** and **work impairment** are caused by mental illness than by other chronic conditions, including diabetes, asthma, and arthritis.
- Employees with depression cost employers an estimated **\$44 billion per year in lost productive time**.
- Mental illness and substance abuse annually cost employers an estimated **\$80 to \$100 billion in indirect costs**.
- Employees with untreated depression consume **2 to 4 times the healthcare resources** as do other employees.
- Mental illness short-term disability claims are growing by **ten percent annually** and can account for **30 percent or more of the disability burden** for the typical employer.

The time for mental health parity is now

- The **cost argument** has been put to rest
- The last barrier standing is **discrimination**



Michigan Partners for Parity

American Academy of Pediatricians-MI
AFSCME Council 25—MI Chapter
Agoraphobics in Motion (AIM)
Alliance for Mental Health Services
Association of Behavioral Healthcare of Michigan
Association for Children's Mental Health
Association for Licensed Substance Abuse Organizations
Birmingham Maple Clinic
CHADD Michigan
The Comfort Zone
Common Ground Sanctuary
Community Connections of SW Michigan
Consumer Advisory Council, Washtenaw Community Health Organization
Council of Catholic Women, Archdiocese of Detroit
Depression and Bipolar Support Alliance-Grand Rapids
Depression and Bipolar Support Alliance-Metro Detroit
Elder Law & Disability Rights Section, State Bar of Michigan
Epilepsy Foundation of Michigan
Grand Rapids Children and Adults with Attention Deficit Disorder
International Association for Psychosocial Rehabilitation Services, Michigan Chapter
Kadima
Katherine's Quality Cleaning Service
League of Women Voters of Michigan
Mental Health Association in Michigan
Michigan Association for Children with Emotional Disorders
Michigan Association of Alcoholism and Drug Abuse Counselors
Michigan Association of Community Mental Health Boards
Michigan Association of Program Directors of Substance Abuse
Michigan Association of School Psychologists
Michigan Association of School Social Workers

Michigan Association of Substance Abuse Coordinating Agencies
Michigan Association of Suicidology
Michigan CAT
Michigan Counseling Association
Michigan Disability Rights Coalition
Michigan Federation for Children and Families
Michigan Jewish Conference
Michigan League for Human Services
Michigan Legal Services
Michigan Mental Health Consumers Forum
Michigan Nurses Association
Michigan Occupational Therapy Association
Michigan Protection and Advocacy Service, Inc.
Michigan Psychiatric Society
Michigan Psychoanalytic Society
Michigan Psychological Association
Michigan Rehabilitation Association
Michigan Society of Addiction Medicine
Michigan State Medical Society
Michigan Universal Health Care Access Network
Michigan Women Psychologists
Ministry in Mental Illness, Webster Church UCC, Dexter
National Alliance on Mental Illness for the State of Michigan
National Association of Social Workers—Michigan Chapter
National Council on Alcoholism and Drug Dependence of Michigan
Oakland County Council for Children and Adults with Psychiatric Disabilities
Proaction Behavioral Health Alliance
Rose Hill Center
R&S Foods, Inc.
Society for Social Work Leadership in Health Care
West Michigan Addiction Consultants, P.C.